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The Bush/Cheney Cabinet

Meet Gale Norton

Gale Norton, George W. Bush's (and, presumably, co-president-elect Dick Cheney's) pick to head up the Interior Department, was part of the original band of "Colorado crazies" that held the Interior Department hostage during Reagantime.

One of her first jobs was at the Mountain States Legal Center, the anti-environmental think tank based in Denver, Colorado, headed by Watt. The Mountain States Center, founded in 1977, underwritten by mining and energy companies plus that faithful patron of the far right, Joseph Coors. Mountain States became a training ground for the Sagebrush Rebels of the 1970s and 1980s, spawning the likes of Anne Gorsuch and her husband the late Bob Burford. In Reagantime, Gorsuch headed the EPA , ultimately driven from office by scandal). Burford ran the BLM, ladling out huge concessions to the ranching and mining lobby. Then in the 1990s Mountain States helped launch the more militant Wise Use movement.

The Mountain States agenda is straightforward: attack environmental laws, discredit green activists, promote the privatization of public lands. Norton spent four years at Mountain States where she became known as a rabid advocate of property rights. She also threw herself into the "takings" issue, long an obsession of the rape-and-pillage crowd. Norton crafted baroque and somewhat harebrained arguments that the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution requires the government to pay polluters not to violate environmental laws and timber companies not to log off endangered species habitat.

Norton's work in this far-fetched region of the law has borne fruit with a string of rulings in favor of developers from the federal bench, including a rare opinion written by Clarence Thomas. Norton's forays into property rights has also inspired counties throughout the West to pass so-called "custom and culture" laws, which turn the abuse of public lands into the equivalent of a property right. The result has been predictable; a decade of hostage-taking, where developers, timber companies and miners threaten to destroy valuable wetlands or forests unless they are paid off.

In 1983, Norton followed Watt to Reagan's Interior Department, where she served as deputy solicitor for the department, which oversees the Park Service, BLM and Fish and Wildlife Service. She remained there even after her mentor was booted back to Colorado in disgrace. In the solicitor's office, Norton plotted to undo the Endangered Species Act, open the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge to oil companies, abet strip miners along the Rocky Mountain Front and eviscerate wetlands protection.

In 1988, Norton was elected as attorney general of Colorado, the first woman to hold the position. She quickly made her mark: tough on crime, soft on industry, for the death penalty, and against affirmative action. Norton had no qualms about consorting on intimate terms with the very institutions she was supposed to be regulating. Take her 1991 "insurance fraud campaign" which called on Coloradans to rat on family members and friends suspected of filing false claims. It turned out that the entire campaign was paid for by the insurance industry and although there were more than 2,500 "tips" not a single one resulted in a successful prosecution.

As attorney general, Norton took what seemed to be a keen personal interest in pursuing Measure 2, the anti-gay initiative narrowly passed by Colorado voters in 1992.

(**Norton** continued on page 4)

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Our Little Secrets

Limo Talk

A Friend of CounterPunch was recently traveling in a limo from Baltimore to a town in West Virginia and fell into conversation with the driver, who related some of his ferryings to and fro of various bigwigs. One of these was Hillary Clinton. "An ornery woman," the driver commented. "And what a mouth on her!"

The driver went on to describe an occasion on which he was driving the First Lady and a couple of her (female) friends through a poor area of Washington DC. They passed a beggar, and as they did so the First Lady expressed her disgust for the mendicant, adding "He wouldn't be a bum if he had a piece of ass." The driver was able to shed no light on how or why she had arrived at this conclusion, stunned as he was by the coarse nature of her observations. Then they passed two young black women with babies. "There go two welfare cases. They make me sick. They're too lazy to work", said Senator Clinton, champion of mothers and children everywhere.

Jeb The Creep

From a senior member of the Bush clan, via two trusted intermediaries, comes this vital intelligence. As kids Jeb, now the Florida governor, was the snitch and goody good. George W. was the manly little tyke who would take the fall, as in, "It was I, Papa, who cut down the cherry tree", even though the true culprit was Neal.

Most undignified move of the transition was undoubtedly Christy Todd Whitman's gift of a Scotty to the impending First Couple, even though they already have a dog. The hairy little bribe landed Whitman the top job at EPA. If she'd given the Bushes a Great Pyrenees she'd probably have been in contention with Rumsfeld for the Defense Department.

Jesse Takes A Dive

Noting that Jesse Jackson took a powder on any counter-Inaugural activities as soon as the Wall Street backers for Jackson's Rainbow/PUSH operation, "The Project" told him to cool it, the Village Voice asked, "Is Jesse For Sale?" Of course he is. What does the VV deem the function of Operation PUSH to be? CounterPunchers may recall our description here some years ago of how black GM dealers sued the auto giant on grounds of discrimination. Jackson made a well publicized entry into the case, proclaiming that he would seek justice for the dealers. What actually happened was that Jackson colluded with GM in attempting to push through a settlement that left many of the dealers seething with fury at what they saw as Jackson's betrayal.

Jackson pulled a similar routine with Nike. First he went to Jakarta and paraded up and down outside a Nike factory, holding a prayer vigil in front of CNN's cameras. Just weeks later, the Reverend fell silent. Then Nike began making contributions to Operation PUSH. More recently Jackson's Rainbow Sports organization gave an award to Nike's chief flack, Vada Manager. Jesse Jackson Jr also showed up about a year ago at the opening of a Nike basketball museum in Chicago.

After the Wall Street arm-twisting reported by the VV's Peter Noel, Jackson swiftly sold out his disenfranchised brothers and sisters in Florida, phoning Bush on December 14 with the usual claptrap about healing and reconciliation.

With Jackson's defection, the organizers of the counter-inaugural have been showering Arianna Huffington with requests to preside as Mistress of Ceremonies. Thus far their efforts have been rebuffed, with no answer from Huff hq in Los Angeles. Come on, Arianna! What's your problem. Is it not logical to progress from counter-convention, to counter-inaugural?

Jeb's Pal

Among those loyally cheering Bush's coronation will no doubt be Florida's electors, among them the Cuban American National Foundation's treasurer, Feliciano M. Foyo, who happens to be a good friend of Florida Governor Jeb Bush. As Jane Franklin reminds us in a useful piece in December 22 issue of the Cuban newspaper Granma, Foyo has another friend named Luis Posada Carriles, one of the most notorious terrorists among Cuban expatriates. In an autobiography published in Honduras in 1994, Posada names Feliciano Foyo as one of his financial backers.

Franklin asks, "What does it mean to be one of Posada's financiers?" and gives us some of Posada's bloodstained resume, which most recently features his detention by Panamanian authorities, along with three other well-known terrorists, on November 17 for an alleged plan to assassinate President Fidel Castro while the Cuban leader addressed thousands of students at the University of Panama. According to Franklin, "If the plastic explosive discovered in Panama had been used, hundreds of people could have been killed or injured."

This is not the first time Posada tried to kill Castro, with previous efforts occurring in Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Peru. A sales representative for Firestone Tire and Rubber in Cuba, Posada started working for the CIA at least by 1960. In June 1976, while George H. W. Bush (the elder) was head of the CIA, a CIA operative, Cuban expatriate Orlando Bosch, founded and led the Commanders of United Revolutionary Organizations (CORU). Posada was one of those "commanders." Franklin cites FBI and CIA documents, showing CORU was involved in more than 50 bombings and, quite likely, political assassinations. This reign of terror culminated in October 1976 when a Cubana passenger plane was blown up after it took off from Barbados headed for Cuba, killing all 73 people aboard, including 57 Cubans.

Posada and Bosch were imprisoned in

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They passed a beggar, and as they did so the First Lady expressed her disgust for the mendicant, adding "He wouldn't be a bum if he had a piece of ass."

Venezuela for this, but Posada later claimed that Miami money helped him bribe his way out. Felix Rodriguez, a CIA buddy of Bush Sr secured his services in the arms supply operation for the Nicaraguan contras. In a speech on the Senate floor, Senator Tom Harkin said the American people "deserve a full accounting of [then Vice President] Bush and the vice president's office and its knowledge of Luis Posada's role in the secret contra supply operation." Senator Harkin wondered "why Bush never bothered to use his good offices to investigate charges of Posada's links with the supply operation and Felix Rodriguez even after the press reported them in late 1986."

DON'T TOUCH SHERRY

On November 21 The Sacramento Bee carried a good story by Sam Stanton about collusion between the LA-based Investigative News Network and cops in the California town of Davis, a few miles southwest down I-80 from Sacramento. INN's reporter Jennifer Hersey is 24 years old, but can pass for a 13-year old, which was the undoing of Michael Alan Hirsch, a 60-year old Davis shrink.

Hersey went on the Internet and posed as a 13-year-old named "Sherry." Soon she was in communication with Hirsch, with the latter expounding his fantasies and not long thereafter allegedly masturbating in front of a computer video camera in his office between patient visits while looking at "Sherry's" picture. "Sherry" then suggested a meet, to which Hirsch assented. INN then alerted the Davis cops on November 7. A rendezvous was set up in Simi Valley, 300 miles further south in Los Angeles. Didn't Hirsch wonder what young "Sherry" was doing, gadding about California in this manner?

Their meeting was covertly bugged and filmed by INN. When Hirsch finally suggested to "Sherry" that they repair to a motel for sex, the cops moved in and busted him for sex crimes against a minor. INN will furnish its video tapes of that encounter and of Hirsch masturbating in front of his computer cam to the prosecution. Hirsch is out on $50,000 bail and, Stanton reports, his interactions with "Sherry" are "expected to be a featured segment of a future network broadcast show and part of a new investigative news channel."

Investigative News Network is a five-year-old Sherman Oaks-based news operation that specializes in undercover operations. Most of its cases have come from its work for the Fox Network's "Stalking the Stalker" program. Hersey has been the entrapper in as many as 20 such stings.

It sure sounds like entrapment to us, though juries don't look kindly upon would-be child molesters.

THOSE "HATE CRIMES"

An Albuquerque Journal news story on December 11 reported that a coalition of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual groups will seek protected status for both gender identification and sexual orientation in a civil rights bill they hope to push through the 2001 session of the New Mexico Legislature. The coalition will also offer a new hate crimes bill , somewhat revised from the one that Gov. Gary Johnson vetoed in 1999. It includes sexual orientation as a protected classification. Robert Adams, a lobbyist for the Coalition for Equality says that instead of calling for enhanced penalties for people convicted of committing a crime from a "hate" motive, the new bill will seek sentencing alternatives that would provide "options for modifying behavior."

"What does that mean?" our old friend Bill Dobbs, the radical gay constitutionalist, asks. "What is this behavior modification stuff about? Don't those gays remember the ugly history of psychiatric quackery in the name of behavior modification — on gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people? Despite reforms, this sort of stuff is still practiced."

Then Dobbs warmed to one of his favorite themes, one we share, namely the whole outrageous liberal push for "hate crimes" as a legal category: Is it not enough to get a gay basher or killer arrested and prosecuted? Apparently not.

"Enhanced penalties entirely destroy the whole concept of equal protection under the law. Hate crime laws create a nightmare of double standards. If my jaw is broken by someone who yells fag — they face more prison time than if they yell my name or call me a creep. Punishing the injury was once the order of the day."

We've gotten into the surreal with sentence inflation. Just what does two consecutive life terms mean, for instance. Back to NM, is it not enough just to pay a penalty for a wrong. Will we now require essays as part of a 'behavior modification' effort?

On the whole though, there's good news on the hate front issue. Dobbs tells us that there is a growing chorus of dissent from progressive gays and lesbians about hate crimes legislation. According to Dobbs, an historic moment came when several recent national gay political conferences had panels that featured critics of such laws. The push for hate crime laws blinds us to the death penalty and much more. The NAACP ran an ad that had Renee Mullins describing how her father, James Byrd, Jr. was killed, saying that when Bush "refused to support [Texas] hate crime legislation, it was like my father was killed all over again." The Byrd killing shocks the conscience. But Democratic party subsidiaries like the NAACP might just as well buy stock in Correction Corporation of America. The ad diverts attention from one of the NAACP's primary issues, elimination of capital punishment.

MOON ZAPPA'S CRY

CounterPunchers may recall our story last year of the Real Andy Weill, and how the prophet of pure living, attending a mushroom fest in Breitenbush, Oregon, was seen devouring a spectacularly unhealthy pizza, which the best-selling author had delivered to him by pizza-taxi from Salem, some 40 miles away. Now comes another tale from Breitenbush, a New Age conference center and hot springs in the Cascades.

A group of Buddhists had been holding a ten day stint of silent meditation. On the tenth day, near the conclusion of their retreat, the group gathered for lunch. The solemn silence was broken by the sound of a plate crashing to the floor; then a cry of "Motherfuckers". Apparently Moon Unit Zappa, daughter of the late great Frank, had reached her limit. CP

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(**Norton** *continued from page 1)*

After it was ruled unconstitutional, Norton appealed the measure, again and again — losing four times. Undeterred, she took the case to the Supreme Court, where she was rebuked yet again.

The word around Denver is that Norton's animus toward gays is personal. Immediately after graduating from the University of Denver, she married Harold Reed. The union ended in divorce three years later. Then in 1993, Reed was outed as gay by the Denver magazine Out Front, which described him as having been "seen over the years in a variety of leather outfits".

Norton has denied that her doomed advocacy of the homophobic measure had anything to do with her former husband. "It's not an issue in the case", she told the Denver weekly Westword in 1995. "I don't know what he calls himself now…[and] I think it goes beyond what's appropriate in his life to drag him into it."

Norton's animus against affirmative action is extreme. In 1995, Norton also chastized the Colorado university system for attempting to increase the number of scholarships to blacks and hispanics. CounterPunch has unearthed a memo from Norton to members of the state's Commission on Higher Education, where she calls the program "race-based" and "unconstitutional". The December 13, 1995 memo is marked "confidential". Norton concluded that the scholarships amounted to reverse discrimination and that "the achievement of a racially diverse student body cannot be considered a compelling state interest."

Later that year Norton was in federal court once more, this time to defend Colorado State University's decision to terminate its women' softball team—a slamdunk violation of Title IX. Norton argued that the federal civil rights law shouldn't apply to the state university. She spent a million dollars on the case and lost.

In the 1990s, she was dubbed the woman from Marlboro Country—and not only because she tried to overturn the city of Denver's ban on assault weapons. When attorneys general from 23 states came together in 1994 to file suit against the big tobacco companies, Norton refused, saying that the cost of the litigation would cost taxpayers too much money. It turned out that Norton's concerns about loss of money was scarcely altruistic. In 1994 the largest contribution to her re-election campaign came from Philip Morris, with more funds flooding in from RJ Reynolds, the Smokeless Tobacco Council and the Tobacco and Candy Political Action Campaign.

Ultimately, public pressure forced Norton to reverse course and join the litigation. But a Colorado state legislator claims that even then Norton was not prepared to do much work on the case. "She basically sent out a letter saying that if you are giving out money, we want some", Rep. Ken Gordon, a Democrat from Denver, said in 1998. "She went from one weak position to a different weak position. Philip Morris has killed more people than Auschwitz, and it's rare that we get a chance to go after a company like that."

Norton has a stiff, icy style reminiscent of no recent politician so much as Al Gore. And like Gore, Norton was a frustrated journalist who opted for law school. Also like Gore she is a devotee of science fiction. In political stump speeches she even invokes her sister's childhood death from leukemia. She confesses that she's just "not a people's person".

The word around Denver is that Norton's extreme animus toward gays is personal.

Norton describes herself as a rugged individualist. But she didn't come by this from reading the writings of Bernard DeVoto or Edward Abbey. No, in law school she fastened upon the turgid prose of Ayn Rand's novel, The Fountainhead. "I liked the philosophy based on individuality", Norton said in 1995. "One that stresses the importance of people being free to pursue what is best in them—free of government restrictions and of attitudes that people should have to conform to mediocrity."

She's a self-styled small 'l' libertarian. But Norton's brand of libertarianism isn't a two-way street. Take the issue of subsidies. True libertarians are against most all of them. Not Norton. She regards subsidies to individuals, be they small farmers, poor mothers or grizzly bears, as immoral. Multibillion dollar handouts to timber companies, transnational gold mining conglomerates and utilities are, for Norton, just the price of playing politics.

As attorney general of Colorado, Norton could be found doing legal legwork for nearly every development scheme to hit the state, most notably the Amitas-La Plata project. The ALP is one of the last of the big water grabs, a billion dollar scam that will destroy a river and sluice water to real estate tycoons outside Durango. She opposed any move by the feds to reserve water rights for wilderness areas or endangered fish. She was reluctant to press mining companies, which have fouled thousands of miles of Colorado streams with toxic runoff, to clean up their operations. She went to Congress to testify in favor of gutting the National Environmental Policy Act, the nation's premier environmental law.

Self-enforcement and voluntary compliance are two phrases that popped up with some regularity during Clintontime. Basically, this meant that federal regulators would allow polluters to avoid legal trouble if they turned themselves in and cleaned up the mess. In 1998, Norton announced her support for a more generous form of self-policing by polluters. "Companies are more likely to find out if they have environmental problems if there's some hope regulators will work with them,'' Norton said.

Norton has attached her name to a swath of anti-environmental outfits, including the Defenders of Property Rights and the Farm Credit Property Rights Foundation. In 1998, she co-founded CREA, the Coalition of Republican Environmental Advocates, which she said was intended to push for "free market solutions to environmental problems". Among Norton's cronies in CREA: Newt Gingrich, Trent Lott, Helen Chenoweth and Tom Delay. The group is funded by mining, timber, oil and chemical companies, swiftly dubbed by greens as Polluters Anonymous. Even some Republicans shied away from CREA. Rep. Sherwood Boehlert, an earth-friendly Republican from New York, refused to sign on. ""I looked at the lineup and I decided not to participate", he said. "You need to do more than establish an organization with a good-sounding name."

After leaving public office, Norton joined the big Colorado law firm, Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber & Strickland, the politically-wired office which represents some of the state's biggest polluters and de-

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Revenge Play At EPA

The Kaufman Hit

In the week before Christmas, President Clinton doled out about 62 pardons, many of them for former cronies, corporate influence peddlers and a polluter or two. One of the most notable was Archie Schaffer, a majordomo at Tyson Foods, the Arkansas food empire, and longtime underwriter of Clinton's political career.

Schaffer had been convicted by a jury of violating the Meat Inspection Act by trying to influence agricultural policy when he arranged for Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy to attend a Tyson birthday party in Arkansas in 1993. Tyson's is a major polluter of the White River, whose destruction Clinton sedulously overlooked during his time as governor.

Even as Schaffer was getting his record swiped clean, Clinton's political appointees at the EPA were moving to crack down on one of the agency's top whistleblowers, Hugh Kaufman, the lead investigator in EPA's ombudsman's office. Kaufman has been a fly-in-the-ointment at EPA for more than 20 years, exposing corruption in industry and government. In his position at the ombudsman's office, Kaufman has opened field hearings where citizens have been able to grill EPA administrators about clean up plans.

Kaufman says his reassignment was politically motivated, retaliation for his investigations into three sensitive issues for Al Gore and EPA administrator Carol Browner: the WTI incinerator in East Liverpool, Ohio; the EPA's ludicrous decision to bury radioactive waste in the middle of a Denver neighborhood; and the mishandling of Superfund cleanups in Florida. Kaufman was also monitoring the bungled cleanup of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal.

"After Gore conceded, there was a confluence of revenge from the politicos and the entrenched bureaucracy," Kaufman said

Kaufman was removed from his position by Tim Fields on December 14, the day after Gore finally conceded the presidential race. Fields is a Clinton appointee who heads the EPA's Superfund division, a frequent target of criticism for Kaufman and environmentalists. Fields maintains that Kaufman is biased and abrasive and he called Kaufman's charge that he had been transferred as a retaliatory measure "another of his shams he's trying to pull."

But Kaufman sees it as political payback: "The ombudsman's investigations of cleanups in Ohio and Florida may have cost Gore votes… They're attacking the ombudsman's office. Step one is to get rid of me. That cripples the function of the office."

The EPA's ombudsman's office isn't a large operation, consisting only of Kaufman and Robert Martin and operating on a budget of less than $1 million. It takes guts to work there, excavating laziness, shoddy work, political deal-making and agency cover-ups. Martin and Kaufman have been the targets of fierce abuse, mainly from corporate chieftains and EPA managers.

But even with its meager tools, the EPA's National Ombudsman's office has been tremendously effective. In 1998, it began poking into allegations of mismanagement at the Industrial Excess Landfill, a major Superfund site in Lake Township, Ohio. The investigation infuriated EPA head Carol Browner, who issued a directive preventing the office from looking further into the problems, which included allegations of botched testing and conflicts of interest. Ultimately, public outcry forced Browner to overturn her earlier decision.

Then in 1999 Martin and Kaufman began investigating the EPA's plan to deal with radioactive waste at the Shattuck Chemical Company in Denver by using the "mound-and-cap" method. This consists of piling up a half-million cubic yards of radioactive waste and then sealing it with a clay cap. In the Shattuck case, the materials were to be left in the middle of the Overland Park section of Denver, a working class neighborhood. The ombudsman's office probe concluded the plan was faulty and dangerous and that EPA officials in the Denver had been "bullied" into approving it

*(**EPA** continued on page 6)*

*(**Norton** continued from page 4)*

velopers. But Norton spent much of her time advising Bush on environmental matters during his campaign. Her theme was "responsible use" of natural resources, meaning, as she explained to the House Resources Committee in 1998, that little, if any, public land should set aside from industrial exploitation.

Bush and Norton's transition team for the Interior Department, which will advise on subcabinet appointments and the initial policy and budget, is a slate of industry execs and Washington corporate lobbyists, including Bruce Benson, CEO Benson Minerals Group, who gave Norton $183,000 in her first campaign for attorney general (75 per cent of the total money she raised), Alby Modiano of the US Oil and Gas Association, Henson Moore from the American Forest and Paper Association, Terry O'Connor from Arch Coal, Hal Quinn of the National Mining Association, Mark Rubin with the American Petroleum Institute and Rob Wallace from General Electric.

Three environmental groups also decided to tag along: Ducks Unlimited, the National Parks and Conservation Association and the Trust for Public Lands. Each is lavishly underwritten by corporate donations. "This are precisely the kind of groups you'd predict that Bush and Norton would have chosen," said Scott Silver, head of the Bend, Oregon-based Wild Wilderness. "They take money from the very interests they are supposed to watchdog." **CP**

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by the chemical company's executives.

As a result of Kaufman and Martin's efforts, EPA reversed its early decision and is now hauling the contaminated soil to a hazardous waste disposal site. EPA managers were angered by the repudiation and sought to strike back by calling for a secret review of the Ombudsman's office, aimed at curtailing its powers.

"It's fairly clear why the office of the EPA's national ombudsman has come under constant attack by EPA top management," says Danielle Brian, executive director of the DC-based Project on Government Oversight: "It's because the ombudsman has been effective in doing exactly what an ombudsman is supposed to do—investigate complaints of inadequacies in the EPA's handling of Superfund sites and to suggest remedies to the problems it finds. Rather than allowing the ombudsman to complete its work, the EPA is trying to revise the procedures governing the ombudsman program."

It's not easy being green, especially when your assignment is to root out corruption inside a supposedly green agency. Kaufman developed a thick skin and an aggressive approach that earned him plenty of enemies in high places. An example of the unsparing Kaufman style. In June, he held a hearing on the EPA's plans to cap mounds of radioactive and toxic waste at a closed phosphorous plant in Tarpon Springs, Florida. When two EPA officials stepped to the microphone to deliver their testimony, Kaufman gave the bureaucrats the equivalent of a Miranda warning, saying anything they said might be used against them in court. A few weeks later, the EPA backtracked from its initial plan and has now agreed to remove the waste from the site.

The move against Kaufman has outraged two Republicans, Sen. Wayne Allard of Colorado and Rep. Mike Bilirakis of Florida who have worked with the ombudsman's office to prod the agency to reassess its cleanup plans in Denver and Tarpon Springs.

"I think that Kaufman was sort of a burr under the saddle for the EPA and they wanted to get rid of him because he made them look bad, because they weren't doing their job," Allard said. "I think it's vindictive. I've known some nasty things to come out of this administration, but this has got to be one of the worst." In response to the EPA's attempts to neuter its ombudsman, Sen. Allard has authored legislation to protect the EPA's ombudsman's office from political interference."

This is not the first time an EPA administrator has gone after Kaufman. In Reagantime, Kaufman was put under surveillance by EPA head Anne Burford, after he publicly criticized how she and her sidekick Rita LaVelle had mishandled Superfund cleanup accounts. LaVelle later went to jail, thanks in part to Kaufman's exposés. Here's how the indispensable Rachel's Environment and Health Weekly described the Burford caper: "Burford set out to get Kaufman. She had him tailed to a motel where he was photographed entering a room with an unknown woman. A gleeful Ms. Burford thought she had the goods to ruin Kaufman's career—to discredit him and perhaps even get him fired. Turned out the unknown woman was Kaufman's wife. And it was Burford who ultimately got fired as Kaufman turned the tables and left her twisting in the wind."

Then, in 1992, near the end of the administration of Bush Sr, Kaufman came under attack once again, when EPA administration William K. Reilly tried to prevent Kaufman and his associate William Sanjour from traveling outside of Washington, DC to meet with local communities and environmental organizers. Reilly had a personal axe to grind with Kaufman. Kaufman had exposed Reilly's cozy relationship with Dean Buntrock, then head of Waste Management. Once again the heavy-handed tactics backfired. "Hugh's got the determination of a shark," said a colleague.

But as has been the case so often over the past eight years, it finally took the Clinton crowd to accomplish what the Reagan and Bush crowd had tried but failed to pull off: put the lid on one of the most effective environmentalists in the nation. Ironically, it may now fall to George W. Bush to put Kaufman back in his role as agency watchdog. Last week, Rep. Bilirakis sent the president-elect a letter urging Bush to reinstate Kaufman at his old job and "undo the damage that is being done initiated by Clinton administration appointees to the ombudsman's office." **CP**

Kaufman gave the EPA bureaucrats a Miranda-like warning, telling them that anything they said could be used against them.

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